

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 267348

STADIS////////////////////
FROM AF/C

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BOEING REP

REF: YAOUNDE 3933

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, POSSIBILITIES FOR USG FINANCING OF
EQUIPMENT SALES NARROW DOWN TO TWO CHOICES: FMS FINANCING
(FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT), AND EXIMBANK FINANCING (FOR CIV-
ILIAN EQUIPMENT).

2. IN EYES OF USG, CH-47C CHINOOK HELICOPTER APPARENTLY CAN
BE REGARDED AS MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR CIVILIAN EQUIPMENT,
DEPENDING ON INTENDED END USE. IF GURC INTENDED END USE
WAS PRIMARILY MILITARY, THERE WOULD BE STRONG RESISTANCE
WITHIN USG AT THIS TIME TO GRANTING EXPORT LICENSE--ON
GROUNDS THAT CHINOOK WOULD REPRESENT UNNECESSARY ESCALATION
OF GURC MILITARY CAPABILITY. APPROVAL BY OFFICE OF MUNI-
TIONS CONTROL OF LICENSE TO RELEASE TECHNICAL DATA (REPORT-
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ED SEPTTEL) ;AS APPARENTLY MADE ON BASIS THAT PRIMARY END

USE WOULD BE CIVILIAN RATHER THAN MILITARY. SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF ACTUAL EXPORT, IF FORTHCOMING, WILL DEPEND ON SAME ASSUMPTION.

3. FOR REASONS INDICATED ABOVE, POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FMS FINANCING FOR CHINOOKS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE SLIM, SINCE REQUEST FOR FMS FINANCING WOULD ITSELF CONSTITUTE AFFIRMATION THAT PRIMARY INTENDED END USE OF HELICOPTER IS MILITARY.

4. EXIMBANK FINANCING IS A POSSIBILITY. BOEING VERTOL REPS VISITED EXIMBANK TWO WEEKS AGO AND WERE TOLD THAT EXIMBANK WOULD, IN PRINCIPLE, BE WILLING TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN FINANCING OF PERHAPS TWO HELICOPTERS. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREDICATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT INTENDED END USE WAS CIVILIAN. EXIMBANK INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ITS LAWYERS WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE CASE CAREFULLY IN VIEW OF TRADITIONALLY MILITARY NATURE OF CHINOOK.
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